

## STRETCHED FASTENERS

### Abstract of the Disclosure

A running length of fastener product is formed of longitudinally pre-oriented synthetic resin. The product is characterized by a base web and an array of discrete fastener elements protruding from at least one side of the web, the web being in a laterally stretched molecular oriented condition. After forming a preform having discrete fastener elements integral with a base web in a stretchable state, the preform is stretched in a manner that substantially increases the fastener element spacing and reduces the thickness of the base web. A machine is shown that is capable of lengthwise orienting before forming and widthwise stretching after forming, which employs controlled heating to render the product widthwise stretchable while preserving or achieving a desired shape of the fastener elements. There are shown fastener products that include products that are laterally stretched to between two and ten times the width of the original preform fastener products, having lateral rip resistance due to molecular orientation of film form webs produced by stretching, applied to complex or extensive surfaces. Also shown are laminated products formed by joining an added material to the stretched web, and methods for laminating.

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